by December, 2003 and the States of Uttaranchal and Madhya Pradesh by 1.1.2004 and 1.3.2004 respectively. For examining the impact of bio-diesel-diesel blend on vehicles under Indian conditions, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have decided to launch a pilot project at Rewari. For implementation of the Report of the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Rural Development has been made the nodal Ministry.

Policy on sharing of profits

83. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has forwarded a proposal for giving States a share in the profits made from any oil or gas struck in their territories in future;

(b) if so, whether this move envisages the sharing of petroleum profit in 50:50 ratio between the Government and the State concerned and oil or gas found in future from the on-going exploration efforts under the NELP rounds;

(c) whether Government have approved this proposal; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The Government has forwarded the proposal of State Governments for sharing of Profit Petroleum accruing to the Central Government from the exploration biocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in the ratio of 50:50, to the XII Finance Commission for consideration.

Guidelines for selection of dealers

84. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines and criteria for selection of POL and LPG dealers/distributors have been approved by Government;

(b) the number of dealers/distributors selected by the companies during the year 2002-2003 and during the period 1st April-30th September, 2003 State-wise; and

(c) the number of SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities among those selected, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) The Government have approved certain broad parameters based on which the oil marketing companies (OMCs) have been advised to formulate their guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships.

(b) and (c) The total number of locations, including the locations reserved for Scheduled Castes(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), in respect of which selection of dealers/distributors has been done during the year.2002-2003 and from April, 2003 to September, 2003, are as under:—

Product	2002-2003		April -Sept., 2003	
	No. of locations		No.of locations	
	Total	Reserved forSC/ST	Total	Reserved forSC/ST
Retail Outlets	425	40	49	15
LPG distribu-torships	64	14	10	2
SKO-LDO dealerships	3	—	1	1

There is no separate reservation for OBCs and minorities in the guidelines for selection of dealers/distributors.

Storage of LPG

85. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to create a strategic storage facility for the mass-consumed cooking medium, the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), to provide protection